



# Summer Blockbuster Reading Challenge

3 months—4 Gospels—Go!

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2022



### Take your Pulse

What has been your favorite joy this summer?

What thorn has stuck in your side all summer?

### Today's Reading

John Chapter 3

Today's reading contains perhaps the most famous passage in all of the Bible. The famous John 3:16 verse which has made headlines as a spectator sign at major sporting events for years. The verse is couched in this nighttime visit by Nicodemus who doesn't understand what Jesus means when Jesus says one must be born again. This phrase, too, is extremely popular in Christian cultures, yet its exact meaning is obscure by modern issues surrounding belief. Throughout the Gospel of John the concept of believing is very important. The signs are not what are to be believed, but the one who sent Jesus is to be believed. And what we are to believe is that God loves the entire world, all of creation, every microscopic atom, every distant star, every individual mosquito, and every human being. When we believe that, we will understand that we are born again.



### Start the Thinking

John the Baptist continues his ministry even as Jesus begins his. And while Jesus is off at one end of Judea baptizing, John is at another, and people are naturally confused. But John says his joy is complete, for he must decrease in order that Jesus may increase. What needs to decrease in our world today in order that Jesus may increase still?



### Conversing with God

Light of the World, your Spirit blows where it chooses, and we neither understand where it comes from or why it goes the way it does. Let your Spirit blow again through us, renew our spirits, increase our faith, and draw us to a more perfect belief in your love for all. We pray in your holy name. Amen



### Be blessed

Brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ, our Savior, is alive! The grave could not hold him. Christ is alive! There is joy this morning! Go into the world with joy. Tell the world Christ lives. Tell the world of God's love. Go, my sisters and brothers, go without fear; go without shame; go without apology. Go in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.